(a) whether it is a fact that many quartz and stone crushing units in the country expose dust concentration between 81 and 660 times than the threshold limits;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any investigation through National Institute of Occupational Health in quartz and stone crushing units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of quartz crushing units approved by the Central Pollution Board during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified emission standards in respect of stone crushing industry under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with rules. These emission standards are being implemented by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the respective States/UTs through 'consent mechanism' as per the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

The National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad has reportedly undertaken a study in stone crushers at Godhra, Gujarat for the purpose of the Factory Act. The NIOH has further reported that after installation of dust control devices in stone crushers, the dust level was brought down within the permissible level of exposure of human being.

(d) The SPCBs and the PCCs are empowered for granting 'consent to establish'/NOC and 'consent to operate' under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in the respective States and UTs. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has not issued any 'consent to establish' or 'consent to operate' to stone crushers during last 3 years since, the CPCB is not authorized to do so under the law.

Minimum support price of minor forest produce

†1123. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for fixing minimum support price of minor forest produce has been received from Chhattisgarh Government;

(b) the amount sought from Centre for this purpose;

(c) the number of families dependent on the forest produce whose livelihood would be secured by the scheme; and

(d) Government's plan to accord approval thereto?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The proposal for fixing the minimum support price of non-nationalized minor forest produce was presented by the Chhattisgarh Government to the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India during his visit to Raipur in September, 2007. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, has been assigned the task by Cabinet Secretary.

(b) The exact amount was not specified. The approximate annual value of raw non-nationalized minor forest produce is Rs. 300 crores.

(c) Approximately 12.65 lakh families mostly tribals are engaged in the collection of Non Timber Forest Produce.

(d) A Committee has been constituted in the Ministry to deliberate in this regard.

Inter Governmental panel on climate change

†1124. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that U.N. findings by Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have been challenged by new report; and

(b) in what manner this influence the economic development in India as compared to earlier one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the findings contained both in the fourth assessment report of the Inter Government Panel on Climate Change published in the year 2007 and the Civil Society Report on Climate Change published in 2008. The Government is also seized of the concerns and challenges of projected climate change relating to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in key sectors of economic development such as agriculture, water, health, energy and infrastructure. The Eleventh Five Year Plan addresses the concerns of climate change. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released by the Prime Minister on 30th June 2008. The National Action plan outlines eight missions in specific areas of Solar, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for Climate Change. The National Mission for sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem is aimed at evolving management measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan glacier and mountain eco-system.

Financial package to save tiger

1125. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.